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I am acquainted with but one extinct species of this genus, and this is from the John Day Middle Miocene period. It proves the ancient origin of this genus, now so widely distributed over the earth. Species of Lepus are reported by M. Gervais from the Miocene (Montabuzard) and Pliocene (Montpelier) of France.

The Oregon species is *Lepus ennisianus* Cope, an animal about the size of the "cotton tail," *Lepus sylvaticus.* (Fig. 21.)

(To be continued.)

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EDITORS' TABLE.

EDITORS: A. S. PACKARD, JR., AND E. D. COPE.

—— The excellent after-dinner speeches at the farewell banquet given to Herbert Spencer, Nov. 9, 1882, have been published by D. Appleton & Co., under the title "Herbert Spencer on the Americans, and the Americans on Herbert Spencer." Our readers would do well to read the brochure. One of the speakers, however, besides assuring Mr. Spencer that he stood at the head of the philosophers of his time, an opinion which we heartily endorse, also unequivocally asserted (see p. 75) that Spencer's writings on evolution (his "Psychology" published in 1854 and anonymous articles published in 1882) has an "incontestible priority to all other promulgations of recent evolutionary doctrine," and that the theory of evolution was elaborated "before Mr. Charles Darwin had ever published a word upon the subject."

Now we feel so cordially and sympathetically towards Mr. Spencer that we hope his last resting place (though be the time far distant!) may be in Westminster Abbey, by the side of Darwin. But a philosopher as such has not brought about the present attitude of the scientific and lay mind towards the doctrine of evolution. This was reserved for a naturalist, the author of the "Origin of Species," who began, as he tells us, in 1837 to accumulate his facts and to draw his inductions from observed or recorded facts, his theory of derivation having previously been suggested during his voyage along the coast of South America. It is the triumph not of an *a priori*, synthetic, or "cosmical" philosophy, but of the inductive method of natural science, that the scientific and popular thought has been revolutionized. Mr. Spencer evolved his general theory of evolution, broad, comprehensive and all-embracing as it is, in his study. Darwin circumnavigated the earth, constantly observing wherever he went; and at home observed, always observed, out-of-doors. Compare Herbert Spencer's Biology (1866–71) and Darwin's "Origin of Species" (1859) and the very essence and methods of the two works are fundamentally unlike. The "Biology" is a collection of general principles in very general and often vague language, with a few facts gleaned from the writings of naturalists, while the "Origin of Species," whether or not we adopt the author's view of natural selection as a *vera causa*, is the leaven which has leavened the whole lump of modern thought. Among philosophers and metaphysicians we hear of Spencerism; among working naturalists we hear of Darwinism. In short, the general acceptance of the doctrine of evolution has been due to causes acting from without—to the actual study of living forms of life, of external, objective nature, and not from within, not from the inner consciousness. And this grand result of purely scientific work gives a dignity and importance to the studies of the biologist, which now commands the respect and consideration of every philosopher as such. A naturalist has been the architect of his own philosophy, and a Darwin has remodeled the philosophy of his age.

—— It is not consistent with the genius of the American people to restrict the progress of scientific knowledge by legislation or otherwise. The anti-vivisectionists, or beastiarians, succeeded in seriously hampering physiological research in England, and endeavored to stultify their intelligence by driving it entirely out of the kingdom. In this they happily failed. It is not unlikely that similar attempts may be made in this country, especially in localities where physiological research has its few and poorly rewarded votaries. Frightful stories will be circulated as to the cruelties of the vivisectors, and the statements of (?) able scientists will be adduced to the effect that vivisection is of no benefit to science.

But the discussion, though opened in the realm of sentiment, has come down to the region of fact. Vivisection is just as essential to the progress of physiology as any other form of experimentation is to the science to which it relates. The pain it inflicts is undoubtedly less than that which it ultimately prevents. The amount of pain it causes may also be easily exaggerated by persons unfamiliar with the subject. There are other directions in which benevolent people may reduce the amount of suffering in a perfectly legitimate manner. The enormous number of birds and other animals destroyed for the adornment of ladies' hats, bonnets and hands, is an unnecessary waste of animal life; and the sports of the chase are by no means free from cruelty. There is also probably a great deal too much meat eaten by many people. If people of benevolent inclinations would devote themselves to teaching the laws of nature to the ignorant, they would probably diminish human suffering more than by any other method.

—— A French committee for the propagation of the doctrines of evolution, is hesitating whether they shall call the subject of their teaching Darwinism or not. We are not surprised at their hesitation. Lamarck knew a good deal about evolution, but was not as well treated by his countrymen as Darwin has been by his. It is much better to be distinguished in England than in any other country. It is an amiable quality of the people of that fast little Isle to elevate well the angle of observation of their leading men, and to use good lenses in looking at them. This is an example which other nations should not be slow to follow, in scanning their own particular tract of the heavens.

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RECENT LITERATURE.

GEIKIE'S TEXT-BOOK OF GEOLOGY.[1]—Aside from the immediate economic importance of the study of geology, the ultimate facts of the science, particularly those standing on the border-land of that science, that ill-definable territory between science and philosophy, into which the inquiring and speculative mind of man peers, and which so powerfully appeals to his mythic instincts—it is these ultimate facts and theories in geology which render it, like its sister science of astronomy, so attractive, and yield to many minds so absorbing an interest. Geology is an inexact science, and will remain so forever, or at least while our finite minds have failed to solve the problems of the first beginnings of our planet, while the nebular hypothesis is only a guess; while the lowest platform of life lies only as far down as the Cambro-Silurian horizon, when it should perhaps be placed at the base of the Laurentian, and while our science has failed to settle the question whether the Laurentian and Mont-Albah metamorphic rocks were azoic or eozoic, and while palæontology is silent as to the earliest types of vertebrates, and even of the ancestral forms of our own species. So long as problems like these are unanswered, geology will claim the interest of the best spirits of our race.

No single text book can well present the principles of this many-sided science. Lyell's Elements and Juke's Manual became antiquated over a decade ago, and while Dana's Manual of Geology is, with some limitations, the most comprehensive work the English-reading student can find, one needs even more than one authoritative hand-book to refer to. The American student will find just what he needs in the excellent manual before us; as the references to points in American geology and palæontology, though not particularly full, yet give it additional value to the American reader.

This volume of 971 pages is somewhat in the same vein, if we

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[1] *Text Book of Geology.* By ARCHIBALD GEIKIE, LL.D., F. R. S., Director-General of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and Ireland, etc. With Illustrations. London: Macmillan & Co., 1882. 8vo, pp. 971, $7.50.